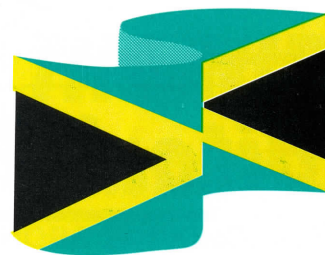


JAMAICA

NEWS



PUBLISHED BY THE JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 1997

FARM WORKERS TOLD TO FLY THE JAMAICAN FLAG HIGH



FARM TOUR: Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport, Hon. Portia Simpson talks with Jamaican farm workers at the P&S Van Berlo Tobacco Farm in Simcoe, Ontario.

Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport, Hon. Portia Simpson, has promised to make representation to the National Housing Trust (NHT) to set aside a number of houses specifically for farm workers.

Accompanied by Jamaica's

High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency Maxine Roberts and members of the Farm Worker Management Committee, Minister Simpson visited at least ten farms in Ontario and the French-speaking province of Quebec, which each year employs Jamaican

farm workers. Calling the workers ambassadors of Jamaica, Minister Simpson implored them to avoid doing anything that would bring dishonour and disgrace to Jamaica.

Continued on page 3



Editorial

Hello friends!

Welcome to another issue of **Jamaica News**.

In this issue we will take a look at education, road improvement programmes, and the National Industrial Policy. We also have some very interesting pictorial highlights.

As you are aware, the education process is a powerful vehicle for transmitting the wholesome values and positive attitudes of our children and the society on a whole. In the words of Prime Minister Patterson, **"If a nation is to forge ahead competitively in the global marketplace, it has to ensure that its people value the education process which will move them forward"**.

The 1997/98 school year began on September 1 and, resulting from a recent national policy decision to focus on the "development of the human resource capital as a means of accelerating national development", several initiatives have been spearheaded by the Government this year to foster a culture for learning.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Remember to keep in touch with your letters, phone calls, fax or e-mail.

Till next time...

CARICOM LINKS



THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) is a 15-member regional association established in July 1973. Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago were the original signatories to the Treaty of Chaguaramas, the legal document establishing CARICOM.

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Monsterrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines joined in 1974. The Bahamas became a member in 1981 and Haiti was admitted in July 1997. The British Virgin Islands and The Turks and Caicos Islands have Associate Member status.

The objectives of CARICOM are to:

- increase economic co-operation through the Caribbean Common Market;
- enhance the coordination of foreign policy among independent member states;
- provide common services and co-operation in functional matters such as

health, education and culture, communication and industrial relations.

ORGANS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Conference of Heads of Government is the main body of authority within the union. There are also five councils which are responsible for formulating policies and performance functions in relation to co-operation in specific areas such as trade, education, health and foreign affairs. The Councils are:

- Community Council of Ministers (the second highest organ in CARICOM)
- Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
- Council for Human and Social Development (COHSHOD)
- Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR)
- Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP).

Member states are represented in each of these bodies by the elected government representative for each specialist area.

PEOPLE GROWTH VITAL TO THE NIP

The following is a review of Jamaica's performance under the first year of the National Industrial Policy. The review was conducted by the Technical Secretariat Development Council of the Office of the Prime Minister.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Government's programme in human resource development continued to concentrate resources on improvement and expansion in early childhood, primary and secondary education.

The focus was on curriculum development; distribution and rental of textbooks, in-service training and emolument for teachers, the construction, renovation and maintenance of buildings and equipment.

Four major capital-expenditure projects are underway:

- Social Sector Development Project (SSDP) — for the development of infrastructure and learning tools;
- Improvement and expansion of primary education;
- Secondary School Textbook Project — for the

rental and production of books;

- Reform of Secondary Education (ROSE) — Curriculum standardisation.

SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

This partnership is seen as an important foundation for establishing shared goals, participation in planning and implementation of policy, and an environment of co-operation in economic management and decision-making among all the partners.

NON-TRADITIONAL SECTORS

The Government has recognised the need for expansion of the economy in some non-traditional activities to complement the opportunities in traditional areas. These include off-shore banking and the music and entertainment industry.

OFF-SHORE BANKING

New employment opportunities are emerging in this area. Jamaica offers a pool of well trained professionals, as well as the physical and telecommunications infrastructure for successfully developing a niche for an attractive offshore financial services centre. It will however require the enactment of enabling legislation.

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

The marketing thrust for this industry will be on the recording of such music as reggae, dancehall, mento and ska, in addition to the promotion of theme entertainment districts, live performances and the improvement of recording facilities.

...FLY THE JAMAICAN FLAG HIGH

Continued from page 1

She brought the men up-to-date on recent happenings in Jamaica. Emancipation Day, which was celebrated for the first time since 1962, "was a timely and good reminder of our past, our history and heritage and what our ancestors did for us to make us free men," she told them.

In thanking the Canadian farmers for consistently requesting Jamaican workers, the Labour Minister said Jamaica has the best workers in the world. "If you want good workers, good service then make it Jamaica, make it the Jamaicans."

Mr. Joe Borges who employs 15 Jamaican workers, agreed that they are his best workers. "The local workers have not performed nearly as good," he declared.



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES JAMAICANS IN TORONTO

Minister Mullings told Jamaicans living in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Montreal, Vancouver, Victoria and Toronto that those planning to return will find a country that has been able to finally say good-bye to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He noted that for the first time in years Jamaica has International reserves to purchase about 13 months of imports and "our credit rating is such that when the Finance Minister went to the Capital market recently to raise some funds, it was over-subscribed in a short time."

Minister Mullings touched on a number of other issues, including crime, the Returning Residents Unit, the economy, roads, election, enumeration and the problems facing the financial sector.

Some people have accused the Government of bailing out only the "big man", but he said, in rescuing the financial entities the Government was actually rescuing the thousands of Jamaicans who in good faith



MINISTER MEETS THE PEOPLE: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Seymour Mullings listens attentively to questions being posed after addressing Jamaicans in Toronto recently. The Minister was in Canada to meet with Jamaicans across the country and to officially open two Honorary Consulates in Vancouver and Montreal.

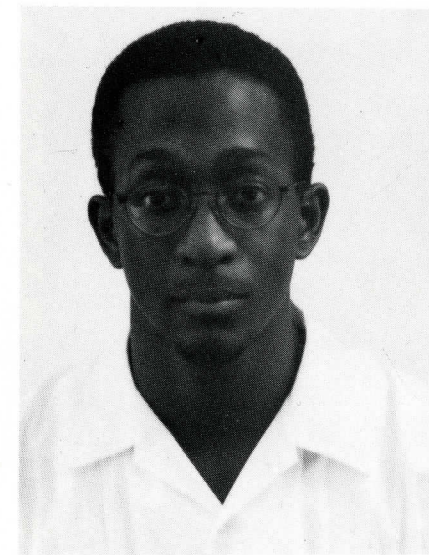
deposited their money in these institutions.

Responding to a question on the possibility of re-opening negotiations with Canada on the issue of deportees, Minister Mullings said the United States has argued that they cannot afford to keep wrongdoers and Canada is no different. Jamaica, he said, has a responsibility to its citizens and will never refuse to take them

back. He suggested that those who decide to live in a country for many years should become citizens of that country.

Echoing this, High Commissioner, Her Excellency Maxine E. Roberts said that the Canadian government cannot deport its citizens. Therefore the onus and responsibility rests with parents to take out Canadian citizenship for themselves and their children.

JAMAICA MEDICAL STUDENT WINS CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIP



Phillip Ellington Burgess

Twenty year-old Philip Burgess, a second year medical student at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, is this year's recipient of the Toronto-based Harvey and Lindo Gellman Scholarship.

The scholarship, which has been increased from C\$2,500.00 to C\$3,000.00 is awarded annually to a medical student at the UWI who is brilliant and needs financial assistance.

Mr. Burgess received honours in Biochemistry in his first year and Pharmacology in his second year. He also received a distinction and the Walter Harper prize in Anatomy.

He is a former student of Vaz Preparatory and Wolmer's Boys' schools. At Wolmer's he passed 11 O'level and 5 A'level subjects.

Mr. Burgess was flown to Toronto courtesy of BWIA in October, for one week, where he visited several hospitals and observed a doctor at work.

This is the fourth time a Jamaican has been the recipient, since the inception of the scholarship in 1989.

PM BATS FOR MONTSERRAT

CARICOM Chairman and Prime Minister of Jamaica, P.J. Patterson was mandated by the Caribbean Community to take up the plight of volcano-hit Montserrat with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, "as a matter of urgency".

The Bureau of the Council of Heads of Government of CARICOM, at a meeting in St. John's, Antigua, requested the Prime Minister to write Mr Blair, expressing CARICOM's concerns about the inadequacy of British response so far to the volcanic crisis in Montserrat.

At the same time, Mr Patterson sounded a

note of warning to the international community on the potential security threat to the region, if traffickers in guns and drugs begin to buy up real estate in Montserrat, to use as a safe haven, in the event of the total abandonment of the island.

Prime Minister Patterson said the United Kingdom could not abdicate its responsibility to the suffering Montserratians. More over, Britain owed it to the residents who chose to remain in their country, to provide assistance that would allow them to live in the northern safe zone.



ORAL CULTURE GOES HI-TECH

The Association of Senior Citizens Clubs (ASCC) and the National Council for Senior Citizens (NCSC) have formed a partnership with the Florida International Volunteer Corps, in an effort to preserve the vital elements of the Jamaican culture that may be lost with the passing of the older generation.

The initiative is aimed at capturing Jamaican folk tales, songs and visual images on compact discs (CDs) and video cassettes; these are to be produced by the Corps at no cost to the Jamaican organisations.

Similar projects, funded by a US\$110,000 grant from the Claude Pepper Foundation in Florida, have been launched by the Corps in other parts of the Caribbean.



A member of the Mountainside Senior Citizens Club in St. Elizabeth being awarded the Portia Simpson Trophy by Minister Simpson for community involvement.

The CDs and video cassettes are to be sold locally and in the United States to raise money for the ASCC's income-

generating projects. The CDs were recorded last month and are to go on sale by the end of the year.

A video documentary is slated to be produced in the coming year and is to include some of the music on the CDs.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TO MONITOR TRAFFIC

The Ministry of Local Government and Works is looking at setting up a surveillance camera system, to monitor traffic in the Corporate Area.

The initiative is to be a part of the Ministry's thrust to alleviate traffic congestion and improve traffic management in the capital city.



Senior Citizens having a grand time, at the National Arena, Kingston as part of Senior Citizens Week Awards Ceremony held in September.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has announced that Government is making a significant contribution to the construction cost of Hedonism III by way of loans and equity financing from the country's development financing institutions.

available \$4 million, while \$6 million will come from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The Prime Minister said the projected construction cost of just over J\$1 billion was a shot in the arm of the country's economy at this time. In addi-

A sound foundation has already been achieved, that will create the confidence which will impel enterprising investors to look to Jamaica.

The construction of Hedonism III will boost the total number of rooms in the Runaway Bay area to 4,200. The project is expected to be completed in 18 months.



Prime Minister Patterson breaking ground for the construction of Hedonism III as John Issa, CEO SuperClubs, Francis Tulloch, Minister of Tourism and Peter Bunting look on.

He was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony for the new 225-room hotel, at Runaway Bay in St. Ann, on Saturday, September 27.

The National Investment Bank of Jamaica (NIBJ) is providing J\$8 million in equity, plus another \$4 million as a loan. In addition, the National Development Bank (NDB) will make

tion, it will have a positive effect on the economic life of the immediate community and its environs.

He said that these and other developments in the tourism industry are integral components of the National Industrial Policy, which is aimed at achieving sustained growth.

LUCEA HAS A NEW MAYOR

Lucea, the capital of Hanover, has a new Mayor. He is 40 year old farmer, Moncrief Leslie.

Mr. Leslie, who has been acting as Mayor for almost a year, replaces Councillor Lascelles Williams.

The new Mayor was installed recently in the Hanover Parish Council Chamber, Lucea, by Immediate Past President of the Association of Local Government Authorities (ALGA) and Mayor of May Pen, Charles Learmond. Mayor Learmond was deputising for the President of ALGA and Mayor of Black River, J.A.G. Myers.



PM'S VISIT TO NEW YORK

It was a busy week of activity for Prime Minister Patterson when he celebrated Jamaica's 35th Anniversary of Independence in New York from August 11 to 17.

The Prime Minister's schedule included opening an exhibition of Jamaica's flora at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and an art exhibition at the Jamaica Consulate by noted Jamaican Artist, Barrington Watson; meetings with members of the Jamaican Community at a "Live & Direct" Forum,

Jamaican and US businessmen, travel industry officials and Jamaican students

He was also a special guest at the Independence Ball held at the New York Hilton Hotel in Manhattan and the week culminated with a church service at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine in upper Manhattan.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Housing, Mrs. Phyllis Mitchell.



Prime Minister P. J. Patterson admires one of the booths at the opening of an exhibition of Jamaica's flora at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens in Brooklyn, New York.

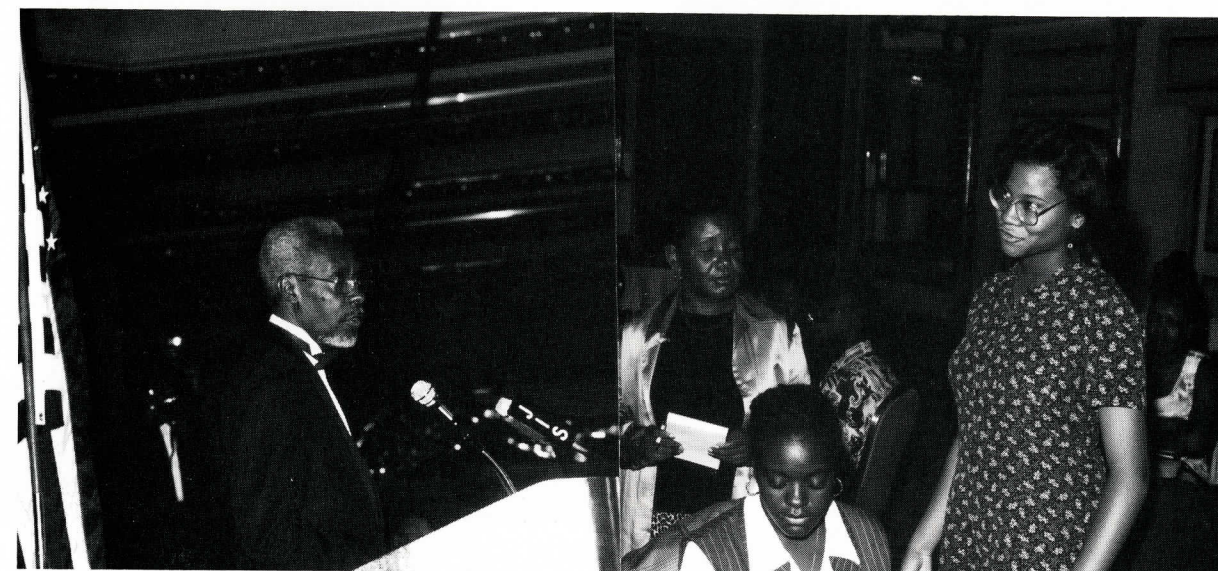


Prime Minister Patterson opening Art Exhibition by noted Jamaican Artist, Barrington Watson.



Prime Minister Patterson and guests are "tickled" at whatever Jamaican Comedian extraordinaire Oliver Samuels is saying.

PM'S VISIT TO NEW YORK



Prime Minister Patterson addressing Jamaican students at the New York Hilton and Towers in Manhattan when he visited to celebrate Jamaica's 35th Anniversary of Independence with the Jamaican Community.



Prime Minister Patterson speaking at a Live & Direct meeting at The Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.



Prime Minister Patterson in a "hilarious mood" with the Hatfield performers.



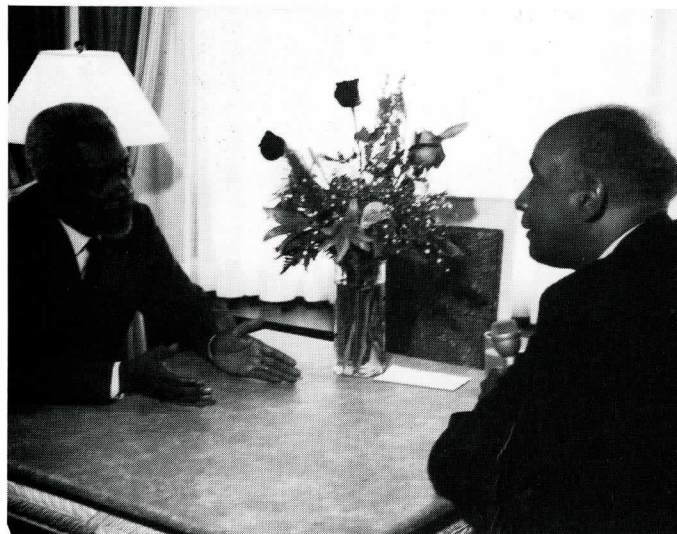
PM'S VISIT TO NEW YORK



VOICES RAISED IN PRAISE: Prime Minister P. J. Patterson leads the congregation in singing during the Thanksgiving Service held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine which climaxed celebrations in New York to mark Jamaica's 35th anniversary of Independence. Others (l-r) are Jamaica's Consul General to New York, Mrs Kay Baxter-Collins; Jamaica's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Pat Durrant; Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Environment & Housing, Phyllis Mitchell and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Arthur Thompson. Former Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Keith Johnson is in the background.



SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIES: Prime Minister P.J. Patterson is surrounded by the ladies during the Independence Ball held on Saturday August 16 at the New York Hilton Hotel in Manhattan. From left are Mrs. Margaret Bernal, wife of Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Richard Bernal, Jamaica's Consul General to New York, Mrs. Kay Baxter-Collins and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Housing, Mrs. Phyllis Mitchell.



Mr. Gil Noble, T.V. Producer/Presenter in discussion with Prime Minister Patterson.



THANKS FOR COMING: Jamaica's Deputy Consul General to New York, Mrs. Effie Stewart, addressing the large turnout which viewed the flag raising ceremony in Bowling Green, the financial district section of Manhattan, on Independence Day, Monday August 4. The flag raising ceremony was one of the events which marked the celebration of Jamaica's 35th anniversary of Independence in the Tri-State area.

NEW CONSUL GENERAL IN CANADA



COURTESY CALL: Members of Desnoes and Geddes Sports Club netball & cricket teams while in Toronto paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Mr Herman G. LaMont. Head of the group, Natalie Moodie (4th l) makes a presentation to Mr LaMont, Consul Winston Anderson (l) and Trade Commissioner, Mrs. Cherita Girvan-Campbell (2nd l) look on.



MODE ACCESSORIES SHOW: Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Mr Herman LaMont (1st r) admires some of the fashions from Vic Daniel's Garments which were on show at the Mode Accessories Show in Toronto, Canada. Also pictured are (l-r) Ms. Cherallee Morgan, JAMPRO's Director of Textile and Sewn Products, Ms Victorine McDaniel, Managing Director of Vic Daniel's and Jamaica's Trade Commissioner, Mrs. Cherita Girvan Campbell.



MISS JAMAICA CANADA PAGEANT: Tamika Nicole Wilson (c) representing the parishes of Kingston & St. Andrew, was the winner of the first Miss Jamaica/Canada Pageant held recently in Toronto. She is flanked by 1st runner-up Diane Bennett (l) representing Manchester, and 2nd runner-up Ava Gaye Colquhoun (r) representing St. James. Miss Jamaica/Canada is a student of the University of Toronto and hopes to become a lawyer. Ava-Gaye also won Miss Photogenic, Best Talent and Communications Awards.

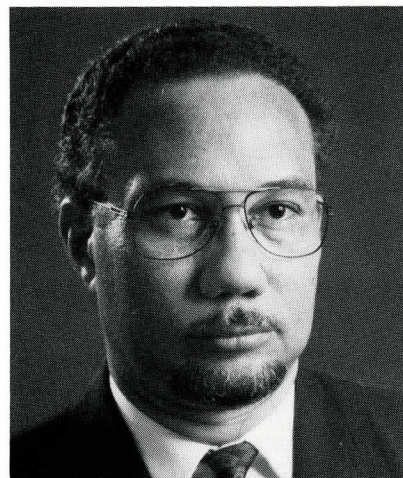


MODE ACCESSORIES SHOW: Sean Duhaney of Belinda's Fashions (r), shows off one of his "Rasta" bags to Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Mr Herman LaMont at the Mode Accessories Show which took place in Toronto, Canada. The Jamaican booth was organised by Trade Commissioner, Cherita Girvan Campbell (l).



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BERNAL APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OAS WORKING GROUP FOR TOURISM



Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Richard Bernal has been appointed Chairman of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism Development, of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Washington.

The initiative arose from the 17th Inter-American Travel Congress which was held in San Jose, Costa Rica in April of this year.

Ambassador Bernal has expressed his commitment to working with governments and key industry executives to improve the region's tourism product. "I view the chairmanship as an opportunity to promote investment, employment and earnings from the sector," he said.

Dr. Bernal will serve as chairman for one year.

JAMAICA AND GUYANA STRENGTHEN TIES

The Governments and private sectors of Jamaica and Guyana have established a joint commission to strengthen bilateral co-operation and examine investment prospects in both countries.

Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Clement Rohee said his nation was committed to privatisation. The Guyanese government had established a privatisation unit to facilitate the process and an inter-ministerial committee to encourage invest-

ments and to remove the bureaucratic hurdles which once deterred investors.

Noting that Guyana was one of the fastest developing countries in the hemisphere, Mr. Rohee said the country's competitive advantage lay in its vast natural resources. Investors should therefore be able to diversify their activities, as articulated in the country's development policy.

INCREASE IN US VISITORS TO JAMAICA

The most recent statistics from the Jamaica Tourist Board show an 11 per cent increase in United States visitors from June 1996 to June 1997.

Charles J. Handal, Regional Manager of Jamaica Tourist Board for Southern United States, said that much

of this increase can be attributed to the efforts of travel agents, sales seminars and aggressive promotion.

He said that more than 112,000 persons from the Southern part of United States visited Jamaica over a six-month period.

NEW ATTRACTIONS FOR SOUTH COAST TOURISM

The island's south coast has been benefitting from the introduction of the "Versailles Queen" boat tours operated by the management of Versailles Hotel in May Pen, Clarendon.

The tours is a response to market demand from local and visitors alike.

The week-day charters (Monday - Thursday), Friday Night Jam and the Sunday family cruise have brought what is being described as a unique touch to south coast entertainment.

ROAD & WORKS

MARTHA BRAE BRIDGE BEING REPAIRED

The Martha Brae Bridge in Trelawny is being repaired at a cost of some J\$90,000.

Handrails and columns are being replaced to strengthen the bridge, which was repaired some 10 months ago.

However, the frequency of motor vehicle accidents along that section of the roadway, has caused extensive damage, particularly to rails.

The repair work is expected to be completed soon.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN PORTLAND

The Ministry of Agriculture and Mining, through the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), is constructing and rehabilitating more than 40 kilometres of roads in western Portland. Approximately four kilometres have been built between Bybrook and Clinton Hill, five kilometres between Bybrook

and Rosehill, through Carlton Gap, have been upgraded and eight kilometres from Bybrook to Mango Row, through Mabess and Berwick Spring, have been improved.

The Government of Japan, has provided the financing for the project through its Overseas Corporation Fund.

HANOVER GETS NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS

A new police divisional headquarters for Hanover was recently officially handed over to Superintendent S. Davis, the officer in charge of the Hanover police, at a recent function on the grounds of the new facility.

Built at a cost of J\$24 million in the Haughton Court area of Lucea, the facility replaces the original divisional headquarters, which was des-

troyed by fire several years ago. The police have been using rented facilities as their divisional headquarters since the fire.

The facility, is built to accommodate 50 police officers and next financial year will see the construction of barracks and recreational facilities at the divisional headquarters.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

MOBAY GETS ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Four additional traffic lights to help regulate the flow of traffic in Montego Bay have been commissioned by the Local Government Ministry. This brings to seven, the number of functioning traffic lights in the city — one at Dome/Union Street intersection.

Another 12 lights will be installed in Montego Bay shortly.

NEW POST OFFICE FOR WHITFIELD TOWN

The construction of a J\$17 million post office at 10 Waltham Park Road, to serve an estimated 25,000 residents in the Whitfield Town area of Kingston is to begin shortly.

The new post office will replace the original one which was destroyed by fire years ago.

Construction is expected to last eight months, and will provide employment for about 60 persons.



TIT BITS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BONE MARROW DONOR FOUND FOR JAMAICAN IN CANADA

Today, Jamaican, Craig Redwood is a happy young man. A bone marrow was found for the 21 year old leukemia victim who has been in Canada since February of this year awaiting a transplant.

"This is a miracle," he declared on August 14, at a press conference held at the offices of the Jamaican Consulate General in Toronto. "This is better than winning the lottery."

He was admitted to the Princess Margaret Hospital on August 22 and began a series of chemotherapy treatments to undergo the transplant procedure five days later on August 27.

Craig said he did not know who the donor was because

that information was strictly confidential, but one day he would like to meet the person and thank him or her for giving him a new chance at life.

Craig, a graduate of Wolmer's High School was diagnosed with Chronic Myloid Leukemia in 1995. Friends and relatives organised fund raising events in Jamaica to get money for him to go to Canada for the life-saving bone marrow transplant.

His mother, who lives in Canada, had been identified as a potential donor. However, when he arrived, tests proved negative.

As a result the search began for a donor through the Canadian Red Cross Society's registry.

EDUCATION

NEW SCHOOLS OPEN IN GREATER PORTMORE

Three newly-constructed schools in Greater Portmore, St. Catherine opened in September for the new school year.

They are the Ascot Basic Primary and Comprehensive High schools which can accommodate a total of 2,850 students. The schools are among 14 which were constructed by West Indies Home Contractors (WIHCON), as part of the Greater Portmore Housing Development.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jamaica now has the lowest infant mortality rate within the western Hemisphere. (UNDP Report).

Jamaica was the only Caribbean country screening a film at the 22nd Annual Toronto International Film Festival on September 4.

HEALTH

OVERSEAS JAMAICANS HELPING PORT ANTONIO HOSPITAL

A gift of several well needed items including equipment, was recently donated to the Port Antonio Hospital by a group of Jamaicans living in Canada.

An operating bed, theatre machine light, mattresses and bedding clothes were presented to the hospital by the Jamaican Visionaries Association. In addition, the group also

furnished a room at the maternity ward and a play pen for the children's ward. Making the presentation, the group's co-ordinator, Del Cunningham, said that as Jamaicans living abroad, they were still very much concerned for the less fortunate. As a result, her group was determined to do what they could to help, whenever possible.

HOW TO GET A TITLE FOR YOUR LAND

Are you having problems in your efforts to get a title for your property? The process does not have to be difficult if you know how to go about it. Here is some useful information to help you.

First, get the property surveyed or get a proper description. It does not have to be surveyed to be registered. If the property is surveyed, the diagram or plan must be sent to the Survey Department by the surveyor. It is then checked and approved.

The diagram is then returned to the surveyor, who sends it to the applicant. The applicant must take this diagram to a lawyer who will have the following documents prepared:

1. An application form to be completed by the applicant and stamped

at the Stamp Office.

2. A statutory declaration from the applicant.
3. Two supporting documents to show present and previous ownership for example a will, common-law-title, receipt or deed of gift.
4. Up-to-date tax certificates.

When these have been submitted to the Office of Titles and the relevant fees have been paid, the diagram will then be sent to the Comparison Section of the Survey Department. It will be checked to ensure that the land had not already been registered and that the boundaries do not encroach on any other land.

When the documents are returned from the Survey

Department, they are sent to the Referee of Titles for approval. After approval, the Referee of Titles directs that advertisements be placed in a daily newspaper once weekly for two or three weeks. Seven weeks after the publication of the first advertisement, the title is issuable.

The applicant will be required to pay a final fee for the new title. This fee is based on the value of the land. The title will then be issued.

All documents used in an application to bring land under the Registrar of Titles Act are private and can only be viewed by the applicant, his lawyer or agent. Anyone else who wishes to see these documents will be required to submit a court order.

IMPROVED SERVICE FOR NIS PENSIONERS

The waiting area of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Sport has been expanded to meet the needs of an increased pension population. The walls are brightly painted and have been decorated with paintings depicting properties and sites in which funds from the NIS are invested.

Pensioners are also treated to a hot or cold beverage while they wait and may pass the time by watching television.

The Ministry's employees have been trained to deal with the elderly, having attended courses in customer service and public relations sponsored by the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) and the Ministry.

The Ministry has decentralised some of its operations and some functions that were once undertaken at its head office can now be done at the parish offices.



WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are developing our mailing list for the **Jamaica News** overseas.

If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in receiving copies, do ask them to write/telephone/e-mail or fax us at:

- **Toronto**

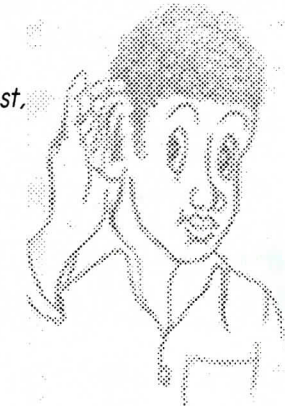
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INDEPENDENCE DAY

**As of 1998, Independence Day will be observed on August 6,
the date Jamaica gained Independence from Britain in 1962.**

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PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

JAMAICA NEWS

MAIL POSTE